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The Highlander

Thursday October 17 2024 | Issue 662

INSIDE: SMALL BUSINESS WEEK EVENTS PAGE 9

FREE



Huskies' owner Paul Wilson believes centreman Nathan Poole (pictured) is the best player in the OJHL. Photo by Justin Belanger.

Huskies crack CJHL's 'top 20'

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton County Huskies have been recognized as one of the country's top dogs when it comes to hockey, placing 14th overall on the Canadian Junior Hockey League's (CJHL) weekly power rankings.

The franchise cracked the latest list,

published Oct. 14, amid an eight-game winning streak stretching back to mid-September. The team's crowning moment came this past weekend, when they defeated the Trenton Golden Hawks 5-4 at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. The Hawks have been a staple of the rankings all season, currently sitting fifth.

Huskies owner Paul Wilson was enjoying a quiet Thanksgiving Monday when his phone pinged mid-morning breaking the news.

"I'm thrilled we're putting Haliburton County on the map. To see a community with the smallest population base of all the

Continued 'Team' on page 3

Housing lessons for the Highlands

By Lisa Gervais

As Haliburton County struggles to house moderate-income earners, staffers with the towns of Collingwood and Frontenac County will share success stories at a housing summit Oct. 24 in Minden.

Claire de Souza, the housing development coordinator for the Town of Collingwood, and Joe Gallivan, the director of planning and economic development for the County of Frontenac, are keynote speakers at the Minden Hills Community Centre.

Forum spokesperson, Fay Martin of Places for People, says, "this will be the third time we've taken a deep dive into what's happening in Haliburton County to create the housing people who live and work here need. The day will open and close with from-away guests sharing experiences that have relevance to Haliburton County." There will be panel discussions on worker housing and densification.

De Souza was hired because Collingwood councillors recognized they had an affordable housing crisis. The town established an affordable housing task force in 2021 and has done a housing needs assessment. The task force remains active today.

De Souza highlighted some of the current, and planned projects, during an interview with *The Highlander* Oct. 11.

She said they are targeting people with household incomes of \$74,000-\$109,000, calculating they can afford to buy a home valued at \$248,000 to \$366,000. Those earning \$47,000-\$68,000 would be looking at rental rates of \$1,200-\$1,700-a-month.

"You never see these prices, so that shows us how far away we are from what is actually

Continued 'Every' on page 2

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'Every other township in Ontario can do it'

Continued from page 1

affordable for folks in the community," she said. "That is the challenge; how do we get things like that built? What can we do? What can the private sector do? What can the non-market developer group do, or the non-profit development community do, to hit those markers?"

They responded with a rapid additional residential unit (RARU) program. Part of that is a concierge service. De Souza walks people through the sometimes "technical" planning and building process for affordable housing, or purpose-built rentals. "I try my best to streamline where possible."

After launching the program, she said building permits more than doubled, to 22 from eight.

They also provide pre-approved designs. De Souza explains they put an open call to designers, manufacturers, architects and builders. Their designs go through town hall and get a stamp of approval with the designs posted on the township website.



"If you're the average homeowner who's never done this before, check out these pre-approved designs. A lot of the work is done for you. You can contact the designer directly to use the design and it just streamlines the process."

Another recent move is passing a zoning bylaw amendment. De Souza notes while Bill 23 allows three total units, they're allowing four on serviced residential properties.

In addition, the town just announced a new seed funding opportunity to help increase the supply of affordable housing.

New or existing housing organizations are now invited to apply to receive up to \$25,000. It's for non-profit or not-for-profits that can develop, own, and operate affordable housing in the community.

Overcoming barriers

The housing development coordinator said she understands the barriers to affordable housing cited by the County of Haliburton and its four lower-tier townships, such as high building costs and a lack of developable land.

"As a municipality, we can only control so much, such as our policies and regulations to make it easier."

"The private sector cannot build affordable housing without financial support from all levels of government. We're trying to set up an incentive framework to offer real financial incentives to developers, both non-market and market developers in exchange for affordable housing." She conceded the challenge is finding the money to create incentives.

As for a lack of land, she calls for innovation and creativity. In the new year, they plan to do a high-level inventory of land that doesn't meet typical lot size and frontage.

"How can we use smaller lots that haven't typically been considered? We're going to go to our development community and ask, 'what can you do here, using unique

construction techniques, different types of builds, modular-style; what can you do that we haven't thought of before'?

"You have to consider building up rather than building out; higher density and heights, which is always a challenge in smaller, more rural municipalities. You always have to balance that with what the community is prepared for."

She said that means people need to change their attitudes towards housing and not be so 'not in my backyard.'

She agreed that dedicating a staff person to housing at a County level may also be key.

"We're really lucky in Collingwood, our council has really taken the bull by the horns and said 'we care about housing'. This is something we heard a lot about on the campaign trail. And they've really put that effort into creating the position and allocating a budget to housing."

"Every other municipality in Ontario can do it as well. We're a small urban municipality but we're taking a lot of initiative, that surprises some municipalities across the province. We have a dedicated staff person, an affordable housing task force, and affordable housing master plan, and we've had a budget allocation for the last three years."

Claire de Souza is the housing development coordinator for the Town of Collingwood.
Submitted.

Flu shots available at County pharmacies this month

By Mike Baker

With Thanksgiving in the rearview mirror – and temperatures dropping – the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit (HKPR) is reminding the public to stay up to date on vaccinations as flu season looms.

HKPR medical officer of health, Dr. Natalie Bocking, said people should prioritize getting their flu, COVID-19, and RSV shots this month.

"Let's all continue to protect ourselves and our community by staying up to date," Bocking said, with free boosters available

to anyone six months and older starting Oct. 28. "Both COVID-19 and flu vaccines are available at local pharmacies and primary care teams."

"We are ensuring our critical health care services are there for those who need them most," she added.

The drug store at the Independent, Haliburton Highland Pharmacy, Rexall, and Shoppers Drug Mart in Haliburton will be offering both the flu and COVID-19 vaccine, as will Highland Remedy's RX and Pharmasave in Minden and Pharmasave in Dorset. The Wilberforce MultiCare Pharmacy will be offering flu shots only.

Bocking advises people to reach out to their local pharmacy ahead of time to book an appointment, though in some cases walk-ins may be accepted.

Since Sept. 1, there have been 1,269 hospital visits across HKPR relating to respiratory illnesses and infections, with 20 patients admitted.

There have been four confirmed deaths across the region, though the health unit said mortality from COVID-19 and influenza are likely to be under-reported.

Also beginning this month, families with infants born in 2024 and high-risk children up to the age of two will have access

to publicly-funded RSV immunization. Bocking said the shots are available through family physicians or local health care providers.

The RSV prevention program is expanding later in the fall, with the shots available to retirement home residents.

Bocking said the health unit will continue to provide COVID-19, flu and RSV vaccines to eligible children aged between six months and five, starting in November. To book an appointment call 1-866-888-4577 ext. 1507.

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Communal servicing could help housing

By Lisa Gervais

County of Frontenac staffer, Joe Gallivan, spoke to County councillors more than a year ago about communal water and sewer systems that could help with the Highlands' housing woes.

The director of economic development and planning will be back Oct. 17 at an all-day housing summit in Minden.

Communal services are shared drinking water and wastewater systems, servicing groups of residences and businesses clustered together.

In Haliburton County, most new developments use municipal services in Haliburton and Minden villages, or are on private well and septic.

A year on since presenting to County council, Gallivan said, "there's the whole idea we've come up with about why use of communal services is a good thing, especially in rural Ontario. Now, we really have to refine that idea on how do we make it work, so when developers show up, we have our act together," he told *The Highlander*.

They have established the Frontenac Municipal Services Corporation (FMSC), which represents the four lower-tier townships and the County. The County cannot sit on the board because it is not

allowed to own water systems, but the lower-tier municipalities have representation. They have also set up a technical group, working on best practises.

Gallivan said there are a lot of systems on the market, including ones made in Ontario, and they are installed worldwide. "The question the group has been asking is 'should we have a shortlist of two or three or four of these systems so when a developer shows up we can tell them you're building one of these boxes because we know about them, we're going to have other ones installed in our region?' He said they are in the process of hiring an operator to manage the systems in the short-term, as the FMSC has no staff.



County of Frontenac director of planning and economic development, Joe Gallivan.
Submitted

Gallivan has been touring townships, looking at systems.

"It's getting out of the land use planning and the idea part into the engineering part," he said.

They have amended their County official plan to specifically put policies in place to support communal servicing, "and all the reasons why it's a good thing.

"Now, I'm out talking to the four lower-tiers, saying 'you need to have conversations with your community to talk about communal services; where you want them to go - in all the villages in your community or just certain ones of

a certain scale that have banks and medical centres and you want that village to grow.

"Do you want them on lakes or not? Do you want to use them to promote resort

development or not? Do you want to have them in the rural areas and if so, at what scale?" You need to really talk to your citizens to figure out where you want this to go."

Gallivan said they have three projects in three townships at the pilot stage; one advanced to the point that construction will start in about a year.

"In the middle of a village, on a main street, for seniors and mixed housing, that could not happen with standard well and septic."

Gallivan said one misconception is that people think the cost of communal servicing would exceed traditional well and septic but, "that's not really true. In Frontenac County it can cost \$35,000 to \$45,000 for septic and half, or less than half of that, for a well. If you run that over 20 years and factor in repairs or replacement, a monthly utility bill is less than that cost."

The facts:

The 2024 Haliburton County Housing Summit will be held Oct. 24, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Minden Hills Community Centre. It will feature keynote speakers Claire de Souza from the Town of Collingwood and Joe Gallivan from the County of Frontenac. There will be panels on worker housing and densification. RSVP for lunch: fay@placesforpeople.ca

Team putting Haliburton County on hockey map

Continued from page 1

Jr. A teams in Canada make it into the top 20, it's a pretty incredible thing," Wilson told *The Highlander*.

The blue and white are currently second in the Ontario Junior Hockey League's East Conference, with 10 wins and three losses. They trail the Hawks by two points heading into a pivotal week, where they'll play three times in four days.

They'll do so with the league's most in-form player in the line-up. Twenty-year-old centreman Nathan Poole has enjoyed a productive start with the Huskies, putting up 27 points in 12 games. He was the league leader heading into the Thanksgiving

break, averaging 2.25 points per game.

Wilson said the Huskies were lucky to have Poole, who joined in the summer following three years with the Ontario Hockey League's Kingston Frontenacs.

"He's the best player in the league in my opinion," Wilson said.

This marks the second time the franchise has been featured on the CJHL list since it relocated from Whitby in 2021. The Huskies debuted at 12th place in the Nov. 7, 2022 rankings, maintaining a spot for 12 weeks.

Wilson said he came into this season expecting an on-the-fly rebuild, with several of the team's top stars aging out after the 2023/24 season. But head coach

and general manager, Ryan Ramsay, had other ideas.

"Ryan deserves a lot of credit. He said to me this year [heading into pre-season] 'our team's better' and I didn't think it was as good as last year. He just told me to wait and see," Wilson said, chuckling. "We have nine 17-year-olds who are all really producing. We've got the second youngest team in the league, so to see us doing so well is a testament to Ryan and his coaching staff."

There's still room for improvement, Wilson said – the Huskies have two max-age spots open and intend to fill them.

Ramsay said he was proud to be recognized on the CJHL list. He seconded

Wilson's claim that it helps to put Haliburton County on the hockey map.

"I've heard jokes before, other teams and people saying things like 'where's Haliburton?', so this is really important. It recognizes the work our players, coaches, all our staff and volunteers put in to make this work."

"We're a good hockey team. There's lots of franchises that have never been in the top 20 ever in their history, so the fact that in our first four seasons here we're already in the top 20 twice, that's something special for the whole organization and for the whole County."



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HIGHLANDS EAST NEWS

Eels Lake boat launch

Ross Campbell came to Highlands East's regular council meeting Oct. 8 to complain about the state of the Eels Lake boat launch.

Campbell said up to the fall of 2022, it was in poor condition, but usable. He said there had been no maintenance and it was very narrow, the concrete was breaking up, with no visible rebar, and seemed to have been poorly-constructed. He added the length was 30 feet short at low water, resulting in dangerous conditions, with underwater boulders and logs, and vehicles and trailers getting stuck and damaged.

He said it's the only free ramp on the lake, used by Highlands East and North Kawartha residents, cottagers and visitors. He said some gravel was added in October 2022, but there was little improvement. In late fall 2023, large river rocks were also added.

In June of 2024, he said river rock was spread on top of the concrete ramp. "This made the ramp almost unusable, like ball bearings. Many users got stuck," he told council.

He said he met with mayor Dave Burton and coun. Angela Lewis and the rocks were pushed to the side but the problem was not addressed. He said they also wanted better signage, but there had been no action.

"My residence is close to the landing and we get requests for assistance and complaints by boaters whose vehicles are stuck or damaged at the ramp. The cottagers' association has received numerous complaints about the ramp condition and

parking problems," Campbell said.

He acknowledged it is a challenging site due to extreme water level fluctuations. He said the MNR suggested they visit a new ramp on Kennisis Lake in Dysart.

"Their solution was ministry-approved. Large slabs of concrete that lock together, and go significantly below low water level. Obviously, this work needs to be done at low water in the fall. This fall."

Burton noted they had done brushing in the area to improve sight lines. He said council would look at the request during budget talks, which commenced later that afternoon.

Septic inspection update

Chief building official, Colin McKnight, updated council on its ongoing septic maintenance reinspection program.

The program started in 2017 and will continue in 2025.

McKnight said all high, medium and low risk properties had been identified and categorized. He added letters to property owners with identified high-risk systems were sent the week of Aug. 26 for follow-up.

"To date, staff have received approximately 120 calls in response to the letters. Staff have arranged for inspections of these properties to occur during October and November. Staff feel we will be able to reduce the number of high-risk systems through this process as many have indicated they have completed the remedial action required. We anticipate a continued flow of incoming calls and expect the number of inspections to increase during the coming months," McKnight said.



Highlands East is continuing with its septic inspection program. *File*.

So far, 2,443 properties have been checked, with 334 deemed high-risk, 371 moderate risk and 1,686 low-risk or complete. Fifty-two inspections are incomplete.

For 2025, staff are recommending to continue the program on the lakes that have yet to be inspected, starting with Eels Lake. There are still 1,226 properties on various lakes needing checking.

Progress on Herlihey Park

Perry Kelly, public works operations manager, said staff are working with their consultant "with good momentum" to keep on target for the completion of Herlihey Park within the 2024 calendar year.

He said the tender to finish the park is 90 per cent complete and will be published shortly for consideration.

A local contractor is removing a considerable amount of shrubs and trees so whoever wins the bid can start right into trail building and shoreline restoration immediately after the tender process.

Kelly said the tender will include trail building, laying gravel, shoreline excavation to define the beach area, a walking trail that will be incorporated with the Ontario Parks dam structure adjacent to Schofield Road and completion of the parking lots that have already been roughed in.

"Completion of this work is anticipated before the first of December," he said. (*Highlands East news compiled by Lisa Gervais*).



Brain food

It was smiles all around at Archie Stouffer Elementary School Oct. 8 as Easton's Valu-Mart delivered 450 snack bags to the school for its 'Healthy Snack' program. Principal Mike Gervais said the Minden store also assisted with fundraising efforts that brought in over \$10,000 to further support the program. Store owner, Lynda Easton, said she's been a long-time supporter of the school's food programs through the President's Choice Children's Charity's 'Power Full Kids' initiative. "We fundraise throughout the year to support the charity on their goal to ensure one million kids have access to nutritious foods at school," Easton said. (*Mike Baker*).

Easton's Valu-Mart owner Lynda Easton, third from left, and ASES principal Mike Gervais, right, pose alongside students holding healthy snack bags. *Submitted*.

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MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- World-renowned local artists Gary Blundell and Victoria Ward with their exhibit *Burner Herzog* on display at The Agnes Jamieson Gallery until November 23rd.
- Annual "Haunting in Minden Hills" is taking place at the MHCC on October 26th. See separate ad for details.
- The MHCC and the HCPL-Minden Branch are offering a free screening on October 17th at 1 pm of *Borealis*, a documentary by acclaimed filmmaker Kevin McMahon.
- The UFO Group is meeting at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Friday, Oct. 18th from 1-3 pm. Bring a beverage, a snack and your unfinished project to work on.

For more information on all the programs and exhibits email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

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Join us October 31st from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. where staff will be giving out candy at our drive through Trash or Treat Event. We are *witching* you a *fang-tastic* Halloween and look forward to seeing you for a fun afternoon!

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WATCH FOR WORKERS

Construction season is here. Keeping a work site safe includes everyone. Slow down and watch for workers when approaching road work sites.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. Meetings begin at 9:00 am unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- October 31 – Regular Council Meeting
- November 14 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal.

PA DAY CAMP

Come and join recreation staff in a ½ day PA Day camp on Friday October 25th, 2024. More information at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation.



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County gets bridge and culvert report card

By Lisa Gervais

The future of the “iconic” Dorset bridge was discussed at County council Oct. 9 as Keystone Bridge Management Corp. provided its every two-year bridge and culvert inspection report.

Company managing director, Harold Kleywelt, said they inspected 41 structures, 17 bridges and 24 large culverts, valued at \$121 million.

“We identified there’s approximately \$8 million in capital needs between 2025 or 2030,” he said. “We’re recommending three culverts be replaced, and three bridges receive a comprehensive rehabilitation.”

Kleywelt said Paudash Lake, Dorset and West Guilford bridges need work, with two culverts on County Road 9, and a 503 timber culvert replacement top of the list.

He said a further four culverts (Kingscote Road, Wood Box, McGillivray Road and Inlet Bay) and Horseshoe Lake Bridge have less than 15 years left. He suggested Furnace Falls Bridge be done by 2060.

The good news, he said, is the depreciated value of inventory has improved 7.5 per cent since 2020 due to recent works.

The structures range from new to 117 years old, with 16 of them between 40-60 years old.

He said council should spend \$1.4 million a year on bridges over the next 20 years, and about \$420,000 a year over 20 years on culverts. He said that would be a “healthy and responsible level of investment...”

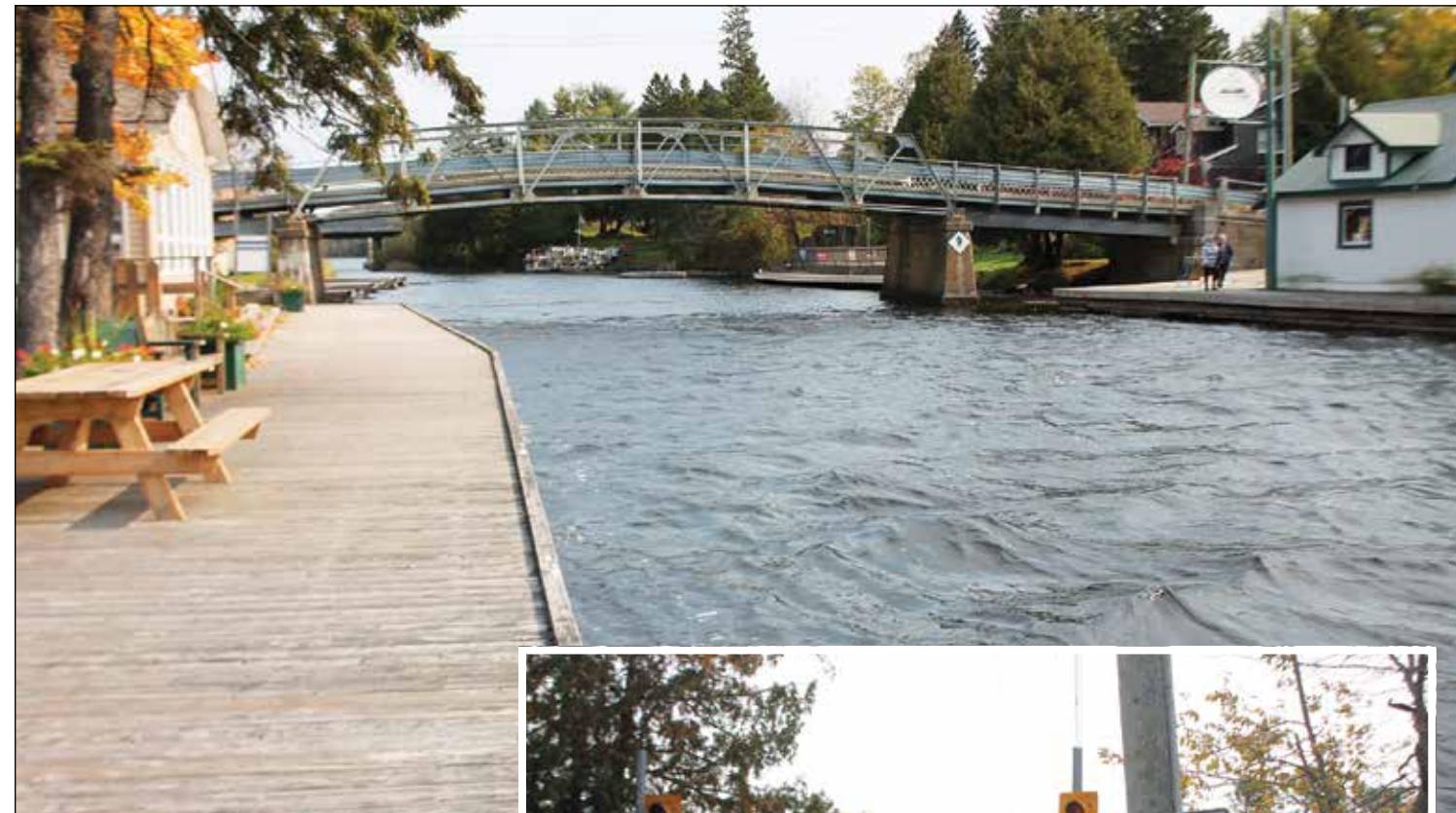
He said the immediate needs are substantially less; \$663,000 over the next six years on bridges and \$657,000 on culverts.

Director of public works, Sylvain Cloutier, added the County had invested considerably in bridges and culverts over the past four years, and if it continues to do so, “we’ll keep our structures in good health moving forward.”

CAO Gary Dyke said the one per cent draw from the tax base for infrastructure might have to increase to two per cent in 2025 for large capital structures.

Dorset bridge

Councilor Jennifer Dailloux asked for specifics on the Dorset bridge, commenting “it is very old, and it is hard to overestimate the heritage value of the bridge for the



population of Dorset. It's iconic.”

Kleywelt said the bridge “is old and tired.” He noted it is load posted, so has weight restrictions. He said the challenge is it is difficult to properly inspect, however there is significant visible corrosion. However, he said it is the corrosion they cannot see that is most concerning.

“There’s a significant risk when you continue to keep a structure such as that in service,” he said.

He said it requires more intense, regular, and thorough inspection. He said their lookover was “generous” but based on standing on the ground and clamouring over the bridge and looking over the edges.

As a result, they have to speculate on what they can’t see. To keep the heritage value, he said steel would have to be removed and replaced piece-by-piece. He said the concrete has wear and tear from snowmobiles and general traffic. The deck is at risk of potentially having a local failure, which he said was not dangerous to the public, but could result in closure of the bridge until it’s



The bridge that runs through downtown Dorset. Photos by Lisa Gervais.

fixed. He said if nothing is done in the next 10 years, the deck could have a local failure.

However, he said it could be fixed and maintain its heritage value, though more expensive than a replacement.

The 152-feet long steel bridge underwent works in 2017.

Dailloux said Algonquin Highlands would ask the County to consider how to preserve the iconic bridge it shares with Muskoka.



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Dorset library stages 'soft' opening

By Lisa Gervais

Lori MacKay was one of the first patrons through the newly-opened Dorset branch of the Haliburton County Public Library Oct. 11.

The HCPL held a soft opening of the branch last Friday.

MacKay, from Dorset, said she loves libraries.

"It's exciting that we have our branch back," she said. The library was closed for about four years while Algonquin Highlands did a major retrofit of the Dorset Recreation Centre.

MacKay said she appreciated that HCPL supplied lockers to drop off and pick up books at Robinson's General Store in the interim but, "we're happy to have a place to come and browse and visit."

HCPL CEO Andrea Brown told the library board at an Oct. 9 meeting that the new branch was having a soft opening, but would be holding a grand opening Oct. 25.

She said the real deal will feature a ribbon-cutting and cupcakes at 1 p.m.

Brown said the branch furniture had all been received and installed. The County IT team has set up staff and public workstations. The library's WiFi, printer/copier, and the

other pieces of technology required for the provision of branch services (VOIP phone, barcode scanner, receipt printer, etc) are all in place.

She added library staff prepared their circulating collections so items were on the shelves and ready for patrons to browse and borrow as of last Friday.

Regular weekly open hours in Dorset will be: Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Fridays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Brown also told the meeting Dysart et al staff will be removing the brickwork and paving the walkway that runs along the side and front of the Dysart branch. She said the replacement with concrete will make the pedestrian areas on the south side of the building significantly safer for everyone.

To facilitate this work, they will be temporarily closing the Dysart branch from Oct. 28-Nov. 1.

Discussing the 2025 budget, Brown said the board request is for the County to fund approximately \$1,213,386, a 0.25 per cent increase from 2024, or about \$3,300 more.

The next regular meeting of the HCPL will be Nov. 13, at 4 p.m. The public can view these meetings on YouTube.



Lori MacKay and Catherine Dennis have a read at the County's newest library last Friday.
Photo by Lisa Gervais.

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The Scotch Line landfill on the Thanksgiving weekend. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

Staff seek more money for Scotch Line landfill facelift

By Lisa Gervais

Chelsea Cosh, manager of waste facilities, brought Minden Hills council up to date on work towards the Scotch Line transfer station design – as well as to ask for more money for 2025.

Speaking Oct. 10, Cosh noted council approved \$1.4 million for phase one of the project in the 2024 budget. She is seeking another \$710,000 for next year. She said staff need an additional \$543,300 for construction costs, a little over \$30,000 to cover HST, and \$136,604 for contingency. She thinks the final price tag will be about \$2.11 million.

Staff are looking to add 80-foot scales to accommodate larger vehicles and trailers, accessible wheelchair ramp, lighting, design specific document for concrete, site works, mechanical, thermal and moisture protection, an electrical site plan, and an additional one metre width for the bypass lane at the scale area.

Cosh was seeking budget pre-approval, saying the project “is critical and will be essential in managing the growing population in the township. With the growing population comes increased traffic, and demand on the Scotch Line landfill site.”

She added scales will allow for waste

disposal fees to be applied more precisely and be more accurate with the cost of managing the material.” She expects more construction and demolition material in future.

Cosh further said they would be able to further landfill in the northwest portion of the site once the reconfiguration takes place at the site. She said the only other option is having waste hauled away, which is costlier.

Coun. Bob Sisson asked if there was any way to cut the number back. “Do we need two sets of scales... do we need 80-foot scales?” he asked. “You go to any gravel pit, and they have one set of scales, and you go around again. We have to try to cut some money here.” He said they are already 50 per cent over budget and is worried about how much the project could blow out.

Director of public works, Mike Timmins, said they are recommending 80-foot scales as tractor trailers are 53 feet long, which is what their haulers use. “The last thing we want to do is undersize this facility.”

As for two sets of scales, Timmins said during peak days of 500 vehicles-a-day in summer, he anticipates long waits with just one.

CAO Cynthia Fletcher told Sisson she asked similar questions, however, “we’re

building for growth in the future. This is a very important project for Minden Hills.”

Coun. Tammy McKelvey was struggling with pre-approval in October, faced with unanswered money questions and not having an overall look at the township’s finances. But Coun. Pam Sayne was okay with going over budget, saying it would contribute to the longevity of the site. Coun. Ivan Ingram asked why they could not just put it out to tender now, without pre-approving \$710,000.

Cosh said it would appear they were fishing for quotes and that could get them into trouble. She said they are doing their best to keep the budget in-line but would not know an actual cost until they put it out to tender.

Fletcher said council can put a stop to the project, or put it out to tender to see what the actual price might be.

Mayor Bob Carter said they were not buying anything today, simply pushing the project ahead to get a tender. If they don’t like the price, they can then make a decision about whether to go ahead or not.

“The fact of the matter is our present situation is not something that’s sustainable. We’re building here for the next couple of decades at least. It’s a responsible thing to do for the municipality.”

Council approved the request.


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To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Time for change

Next week's housing summit in Haliburton County will mark the third time folks have come together, listened to speakers, chatted amongst themselves, gotten somewhat fired up, and walked away to do very little.

To be fair, that is not due to apathy. There has been a lot of chatter in our County about how a lack of housing – especially affordable housing – is holding us back. We cannot attract professionals, or other workers. Our best and brightest leave for better housing pastures.

Nor is it completely due to lack of action. For example, when the province passed Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022, our townships made planning changes to allow, for example, secondary units on a property, for aging parents, children seeking independence, or working professionals looking for somewhere to live.

However, there has been very little uptake across the County. In part it may be because the word has not gotten out. More likely, it's due to high buildings costs.

People might like the idea of plopping a second home on their rural lands, but when they begin to crunch the numbers, they find the cost is prohibitive, especially when factoring in the increased price of wells and septic systems, which can run around

\$50,000. I suspect there is also an inherent fear around becoming a landlord to an unknown tenant.

That puts the building pressure on developers, and not-for-profits such as Places for People. However, municipal governments can help them to help all of us.

I interviewed the keynote speakers for next week's housing summit in Minden; Claire de Souza, the housing development coordinator for the Town of Collingwood, and Joe Gallivan, the director of planning and economic development for the County of Frontenac.

These two areas are facing similar challenges to Haliburton County and arguably taking greater strides to move the needle.

Our politicians often cite a lack of developable land in the County. De Souza has heard the same argument in her neck of the woods. So, they are doing an inventory of lots formerly deemed undevelopable due to size and frontage, to see if they can get some out-of-the-box ideas from their development community on how to use them. It might mean building up instead of across. For this though, neighbours have to let go of their not-in-my-backyard (NIMBY) mentality and conclude that despite their personal aversion,

a small three-storey apartment or condo actually helps the County.

Same with encouraging developers to build multi-unit residential with communal servicing. Why would the County and its towns not look into this? They only need glance at Frontenac County's website or come listen to Gallivan to find a template that could be adopted for our needs. It might take eight years, but what do we have to lose?

I get it. Change is hard, but the cost of not changing is far worse for the future of our County. It means politicians and residents have to rethink conventional views about housing. Gone should be one residence on a large tract of rural land. Gone should be ideas we cannot have anything other than a bungalow on our street. We still want to protect our environment, and our lakes, at all costs but something has to give. Our hope is that some movement can occur between next Thursday and the next housing summit in the fall of 2025.



By Lisa Gervais

Putting Haliburton on the map

The Haliburton County Huskies were thrust into the national spotlight this week after the hometown club cracked the Canadian Junior Hockey League's 'Top 20' team rankings.

Entering at 14th position, the blue and white are one of four Ontario Junior Hockey League teams featured, alongside the Trenton Golden Hawks (fifth), Leamington Flyers (eighth), and Burlington Cougars (15th).

For those who have already been out to a couple games this season, this news likely comes as no surprise. The Huskies have been red-hot to start the year. Since a disappointing opening night defeat to the Flyers Sept. 7, the team has won 10 of 12 games – including its last eight straight.

Saturday's tilt with the Golden Hawks – a 5-4 Huskies win – was a big test, and one the club passed with flying colours. It wasn't just the result that's made people sit up and take notice, it's the performance level too. The Huskies have squeezed out tight wins against some of the league's top teams in recent years, but this was one of the first times they stood toe-to-toe with a lofty opponent and, largely, dominated the game.

All credit to head coach and general manager Ryan Ramsay who, according to team owner Paul Wilson, saw this coming a mile away. Despite losing the franchise's all-

time points leader Patrick Saini and a handful of other team leaders over the summer, the Huskies have taken a step forward.

They've done so while having the second youngest squad in the OJHL – eight 17-year-olds took to the ice against Trenton.

Wilson remembers when, a couple of seasons ago, the team didn't have a single high school-aged player on its roster. Now, Haliburton County has become a hub for some of the continent's most promising up-and-coming players.

That bodes well for the team – but also for the Highlands. Players who come here make connections that last a lifetime. It's not uncommon to find former stars visiting on game-day. Guys like Saini and Jack Staniland, who spent three years playing here, have said Haliburton County is like a second home and it's a matter of when, not if, they return.

Having this conveyor belt of young, ambitious men coming to the County in their early years bodes well for the future. The best way to facilitate local growth is to bring people here and show them all our area has to offer.

That's why it's so important the community continues to rally around the Huskies. Even though the team has been successful,

making playoffs in each of its three seasons in Haliburton County, its future is far from secure. Wilson confirmed over the summer the team is operating at a loss.

Attendance is down about 20 per cent from the 2022/23 season – the first without COVID-19-enforced capacity limits. The team has also struggled to find enough locals willing to become billets, where they welcome a player into their home for a season.

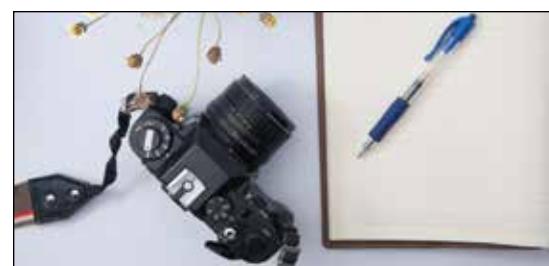
I speak to enough people at games to know what it means for this community to have its very own Jr. A hockey franchise. Attending games has become a family tradition for many.

Wilson and Ramsay say we're the smallest population base in Canada to host a Jr. A team. If we want that to continue, we need to step up and show our support.

The Huskies have put Haliburton on the hockey map. It's on the community now to make sure that sticks.



By Mike Baker



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HCDC 'the go-to' for County businesses

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC) processed 53 loans for Highlands businesses in 2024, totalling just over \$6.5 million - helping to save or create 443 local jobs.

Speaking at the organization's 39th annual general meeting Oct. 3, loans officer Sara Joau said it has been another successful fiscal year for HCDC.

"We did see a significant growth in the value of dollars dispersed," Joau said, up about \$1.5 million from last year. "The money was distributed to 49 local businesses within the community. At year end, we've got 147 active loans in our portfolio, totalling \$16.7 million."

Through its loan offerings, HCDC provides financing options up to \$300,000 for business start-up, upgrades, and expansion. Staff also provide advice and counselling to local entrepreneurs at no cost.

Since its inception in 1985, HCDC has assisted 2,373 businesses in the County to the tune of about \$109 million, Joau said. That's the most of any community development corporation in Ontario, confirmed HCDC board chair Pat Kennedy.

"Basically, we're the go-to for businesses

here since there's no commercial bank in Haliburton County," Kennedy said. "We're for the last-minute things. If someone has an opportunity to close a deal and they need the money quickly, we're able to do that."

"Our doors are always open. If an application is good, or you're already an existing client, we can get money out in 24 hours. Basically, as fast as you can get a proposal together, we flip it to the board and get things rolling. I think that's helped – word of mouth. Knowing that we're easy to work with helps bring people through the door," Kennedy added.

Of the businesses to receive support last year, Joau said 49.4 per cent were in the service sector, 13.1 per cent in tourism, 12.6 per cent in construction, 8.4 per cent in manufacturing, 8.1 per cent in retail, 5.8 per cent in forestry, and 2.6 per cent in non-profits.

The average interest rate for loans approved between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024 was 8.2 per cent. Over the past 39 years, HCDC has earned over \$21.2 million in interest, Joau said. The average loan size is \$49,965.

Joau noted the regional relief and recovery fund, launched in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic to support struggling businesses,

matured in January. HCDC supported 12 businesses through the initiative, loaning just over \$1.75 million. Of that, approximately \$1.3 million has been paid back, Joau said.

County warden Liz Danielsen was impressed by those numbers.

"When I think about the challenges we've all seen over the past few years with COVID, with price increases and inflation, what you've done to help our entrepreneurs, to keep the economy going is something to be applauded," Danielsen said.

Through its community economic development umbrella, HCDC invested \$233,000 supporting 13 local projects for organizations like Wetlands and Waterways Eco Watch, Fleming College, Glebe Park, Skyline Dance Studio, Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre, Harvest Haliburton, Rails End Gallery, the Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation, and Algonquin Highlands township.

HCDC also invested \$174,973 supporting 25 projects through its local initiatives program, with highlights being the construction of a new playground at Walkabout Farm Therapeutic Riding Association in Minden, and supporting the Friends of Ecological and Environmental Learning's (FEEL) Children's Water Festival.



HCDC board chair Pat Kennedy said loan applications. *Submitted.*

'The power of small' for business week

By Lisa Gervais

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce, the Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC), the County of Haliburton, and the Arts Council ~ Haliburton Highlands are launching small business week Oct. 21.

This year's theme is 'the power of small.'

Patti Tallman, executive director of HCDC, said, "small businesses are the backbone of our local economy and play a vital role in driving innovation, creating jobs, and fostering a vibrant community. When you shop at a business in Haliburton County, you're supporting a family."

County warden Liz Danielsen added, "the overwhelming entrepreneurial spirit across the Highlands forms the heart of our community's success and the upcoming small business week will go a long way towards celebrating that spirit. Congratulations to all of our small business leaders."

During the week, the organizers will be hosting three events.

They will kick off with a free networking and social event, in partnership with the Business Development Bank of Canada, at The Dominion in Minden Oct. 21 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Go to [eventbrite.ca/e/2024-small-business-week-kick-off-social-tickets-993727003217](https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/2024-small-business-week-kick-off-social-tickets-993727003217).

That will be followed by an informative complimentary session on Bookkeeping 101 for small entrepreneurs at The Link Oct. 23. This is in partnership with chartered accountant, Natasha Hinze, from



The chamber awards are shifting from Sir Sam's Ski/Ride to the Haliburton Legion Oct. 25. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Go to [eventbrite.ca/e/bookkeeping-101-for-small-entrepreneurs-tickets-1004680665917?aff=oddtctcreator](https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/bookkeeping-101-for-small-entrepreneurs-tickets-1004680665917?aff=oddtctcreator)

They will then wrap up the week with the annual community and business achievement awards & gala at the Haliburton Legion. This event runs from 5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$95 for

chamber members, and \$110 for non-members. For tickets, email ed@haliburtonchamber.com

Chamber executive director Amanda Conn said, "we are so excited to engage and celebrate our many small businesses here in Haliburton County. As a County, we understand that our small businesses are

the powerful and resilient backbone of our community."

She added, "at the heart of every successful enterprise is a big idea, hard-working entrepreneurs, and a supportive business ecosystem. Our events this week, and throughout the year, celebrate and strengthen the business ecosystem."



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Sat., Nov. 2

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Dougie Walker has been named artistic director of Highlands Summer Festival, replacing Scot Denton. *Submitted*.

Walker entering stage right at HSF

By Mike Baker

Despite spending years travelling the globe as a dancer and performing artist, living in some of the world's most popular cultural hotspots, Dougie Walker believes he's hit the jackpot having recently relocated to Haliburton County.

He and wife, Jocelyn Regina – a local – moved to the Highlands over the summer to be closer to family and nature. The couple have a young son, Lachlan, with another on the way, and thought Haliburton County was the perfect place to start a family.

Turns out, it's the perfect place to further your career too, or at least that's the case for Walker, who recently replaced Scot Denton as Highlands Summer Festival's artistic producer.

"Thrilled to be here, to take on this new challenge," said Walker, no stranger to local theatre fans having starred in the 2017 production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and 2022's *Every Brilliant Thing*. He also directed this past summer's *The Twenty-fifth Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

Originally from Scotland, Walker's lifelong love affair with theatre began as a teenager. He first took to the stage during a community theatre production, later training as a professional dancer and singer, spending his early 20s working on cruise ships. He also spent a year working at Universal Studios in Osaka, Japan.

After returning to Glasgow to complete his Master's in musical theatre, obtained at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Walker met Jocelyn, changing the entire trajectory of his life. Upon graduation, the couple worked professionally across Europe before deciding

to settle down in Toronto in 2016.

When Denton announced in August he would be stepping away from HSF after 17 years at the helm, Walker was offered the job.

"I really want to get immersed in the community and my way to do that is through theatre," Walker said.

His first job will be developing a lineup for summer 2025, which happens to be HSF's 25th anniversary. Walker confirmed there will be five shows – three locally-produced plays, a musical, and a visiting show. The full lineup will be revealed before year's end, Walker confirmed.

Beyond preparing for the upcoming season – selecting the shows, acquiring the production rights, holding castings and recruiting directors, Walker said he plans to engage HSF staff and volunteers and the Highlands community about where to take the festival.

With Dysart et al donating 14 acres on Wonderland Road to the Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation this summer, potentially paving the way for a new facility to be built in the community, Walker said the future looks bright.

"Do we want to remain a community centric theatre, or do we want something more? There's so much to offer in Haliburton. There's more and more things every year, it seems, in the arts," Walker said. "The sky's the limit in terms of what we can strive to do... we need input from everyone to figure out what it is we want."

"Scot has spent so many years nurturing this festival and making it what it is – I just want to honour that and do whatever I can to build on the success," Walker added.

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Jim Hicks at a recent seniors gathering in Haliburton County. *File*.

County support helps ATAC launch new project

By Lisa Gervais

The County of Haliburton has received a 2024-2025 seniors community grant to support Aging Together as Community's [ATAC] new project, entitled Bridging the Gaps.

County warden Liz Danielsen said, "I am greatly appreciative for this funding from the Ontario Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility to help support programming for seniors in Haliburton County." She added, "this partnership between the province, the County, and Aging Together as Community positively benefits the senior population and County as a whole."

The Bridging the Gaps project will provide social, health, fitness, educational and digital literacy programming to help rural, low-income, and LGBTQ+ seniors stay active, connected and living independently throughout Haliburton County. The project was awarded \$25,000 through the Seniors Community Grant Program.

ATAC steering committee member Paul Moore said, "this funding is perfect timing for ATAC. Our program not only fits with the priorities of the Seniors Community Grant Program of reducing isolation, being connected, accessing services and programs and increasing supports for health prevention and health promotion, but also, is extremely timely overlapping with some of the outcomes and directives from our recent community survey."

The provincial funding will enable ATAC to continue its goal of bringing more seniors throughout Haliburton County together in inclusive meetings both virtually and in-person. Meetings will also provide an opportunity for participants to hear from speakers on a variety of educational topics such as

navigating the healthcare system and understanding digital technology, while sharing a healthy meal and having time to socialize and make friends.

October 27 event

ATAC is hosting an upcoming event, on how to better access the healthcare system in the County at 'Learn the ropes: a road map to healthcare services', at the Haliburton Legion, Oct. 27 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Speakers include Jen Burns-West, chief nursing executive and vice president of clinical and community support services at HHHS; Christine Keenan, project coordinator of the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Ontario Health Team; Lauren Wilson, pharmacist-owner, of Haliburton Pharmasave, Chris Parish, commander clinical programs, Haliburton County Paramedic Service; and Kim Ballantyne, senior manager, patient services, home and community care support services. Afterwards, people are invited to enjoy a casual meal of beef brisket or vegetable chili, buns and pumpkin tart. People are asked to register by Oct. 21 by email attachevents@gmail.com or calling Connie Wood at 705-457-7215.

MPP Laurie Scott said, "the renewed support for Aging Together as a Community is welcome news for Haliburton County. Our government is continuing their commitment to helping seniors stay active and healthy in our community and across our province."

Haliburton County has a rural population of more than 20,000 residents, with over 35 per cent of residents being 65 or older.

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Top left: Gabriella, Viola (pink), Evan and Olivia Mueller pose with Sassy. Top right: A group of children make crafts. Middle: Coconut and Sassy eating hay. Above left: The newly-constructed barn to help continue services year-round. Above right: Grandma watches over a bunch of treasure hunters. Photos by Justin Belanger.

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Decking the airwaves with festive cheer

By Mike Baker

With the festive season right around the corner, CanoeFM is once again recruiting the jolliest County-based kids to help spread Christmas cheer over the ho-ho-holidays.

The non-profit radio station is looking for youthful singers who want to participate in this year's Christmas Kids' Project, with three popular yuletide carols to be recorded and played on-air.

Now in its third year, the initiative is designed to inspire community, bring people together, and generate excitement for the most wonderful time of year, said Laurie Sweig, lead volunteer at The Studio – the professional recording space located inside CanoeFM's Haliburton office.

"We are so fortunate to have a recording studio like this in the County. The equipment is top-notch, and we've got a volunteer team of knowledgeable individuals who love producing music for musicians of varying calibres," Sweig said. "The Kids' Christmas Project is an opportunity to demonstrate how a community can come together and create magic that can be shared, thanks to technology, throughout the world."

The studio was a \$70,000 investment, with half coming from a Community Radio Fund of Canada Grant. It opened in February 2023. It's fitted with acoustic wall panels, new speakers, and computer set-up with access to editing programs, such as Logic Pro. For \$20 an hour, locals can rent the space out and record songs, podcasts, instrumental pieces,



Scott Kibbler, a studio team volunteer at CanoeFM, will assist with this year's Christmas Kids Project. *Submitted*.

or keepsakes for family and friends.

This year's festive lineup features classics *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*, *Deck the Halls*, and *O Christmas Tree*. Sweig said she hopes to have between 15 and 20 children participate. Recordings are set to take place in late October.

It won't be a free-for-all – Sweig said in most cases children will be allotted a time to come into the studio to individually sing songs. Once all the recording is done,

volunteers will edit, mix and master the finished pieces before broadcasting.

"Our goal is to create the most fun Christmas songs ever recorded," Sweig said.

Station manager Roxanne Casey said the program has been a big hit in recent years, with many kids using it as their excuse to begin the big Christmas countdown.

"There's so much laughter – the kids have a blast, and I know the parents enjoy it as well," Casey said. "Families loved getting a

copy of the songs, and I know from my own grandkids, it was fun waiting to hear them on the radio."

Casey added it's a good way to introduce youth to CanoeFM and its range of community programs and initiatives.

Anyone interested in participating can contact thestudio@canoefm.com. Project packages containing everything kids need to rehearse prior to recording, will be available for pick-up from the station.

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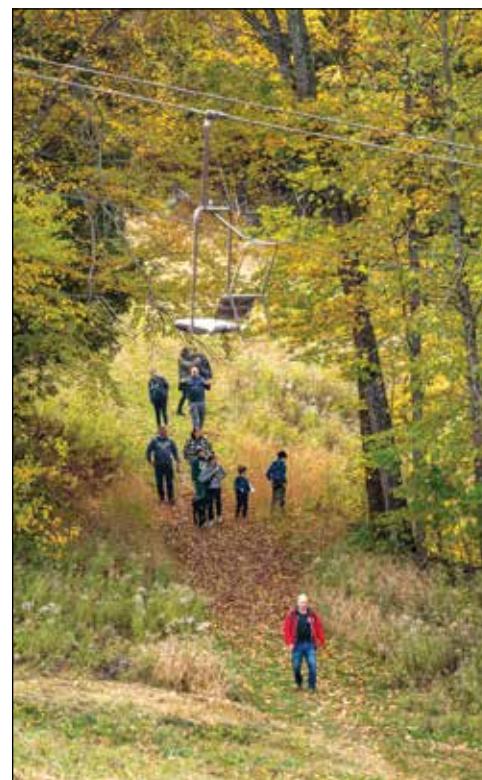
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Celebrating fall at the ski hill

Sir Sam's held its Thanksgiving festival and open house Oct. 12-13 with the new viewing tower open at the top of the ski hill. The 60-foot open air tower gives visitors a view of the surrounding forest and Eagle and Moose lakes. Outdoor enthusiasts were able to take the chairlift up for fall vistas, hang out on the sunny patio listening to live music, check out the facilities before winter gets underway, and get ready for the upcoming snow season by purchasing their season passes.

Top left: Stefan, Brooklyn, Katie, Everett and Macie Bjelis pose for a family pic on the tower. Top right: A group of nature lovers make their way down a trail from the top of the hill. Above left: Looking at the chairlift line, trees, hikers and tower in between chairs. Above middle: Staff members Mischa MacKinnon and Lexie Wilkinson greeting folks at the entrance. Right: Musician Bill Black belts out tunes on the patio at the chalet. Photos by Justin Belanger.

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Still seeking sasquatch sightings

By Lisa Gervais

A second season of Sasquatch University is now airing on Wild TV with bigfoot hunters, Ryan Willis, Joel Porter and Ben Blanc, having spent time in Haliburton County again this past year.

Willis said, "it was great. We had another good summer of filming. It was a lot of fun."

The Highlander has written about the sasquatch chasers in the past, and Willis said they received calls as a result.

"We got more people reaching out about encounters, and we met with them, and filmed investigations," he said.

He added they spent most of season two closer to Haliburton, Algonquin Highlands, Muskoka, north of Muskoka, and in Algonquin Park.

He relates how they were contacted by a man in Haliburton who owns a "huge" property and, "it was really cool talking with him, because he was telling us about how he had an encounter out in the middle of (his land)."

"It's a lot cooler for us when it's a big property because you wonder, when it's close to a town, why would (a sasquatch) be here? Did they see something else? When it's out there and there's no way it's another person, there's no one out there. There's no trails. The man has to canoe in when he goes. He was a very good witness. He's been there awhile. He's seen bears. He's seen moose. He's seen everything out there

that you get in Haliburton. There's no way he made a mistake." The man said he saw an eight-foot-tall, hairy sasquatch, "all the typical things you get in a description of a bigfoot," Willis said.

The bigfoot hunter added other people reached out from Algonquin Highlands and the Haliburton-Muskoka area.

"Algonquin Highlands and



Haliburton are two of my favourites," he said of sasquatch investigations the team does. He recalled another witness from the Highlands, whose family had been on their property since the late 1800s, "and they'd been seeing white ones probably every 20 or 30 years, but he saw a brown one."

While the team has yet to spy its own sasquatch in the wild, Willis said they do receive video and audio from the public and, "it's great when people reach out and they have, not just a really good story, but video evidence to go along, too."

He conceded they get some strange calls. They always pre-screen by doing a phone interview with the person before attending their property. "Do they sound all over the place? We had one guy, who, mid-call said, 'I find dead bodies all the

time... are you guys FBI?' We have found the odd criminal. A lot of other people are very nice so we go and, luckily, they often turn out to be great." He said if they are staying overnight somewhere, he always tells his mom to call the police if he is not back by a certain time.

He recalled how, "someone suggested they research, 'is the war between Russia and Ukraine affecting the sasquatch population there?' We assumed the guy was joking."

Willis added, "a lot of good, regular people contact us and have no reason to lie or make something up. They could be on TV for five minutes with their neighbours asking, 'is he crazy?' There are more reasons for witnesses not to talk."

That said, none of the evidence to date has categorically proven a sasquatch. Willis said they would continue to do their work until they find one.

"It's the only way to end the show. We want a live one, the real thing, in the flesh. Until then, the show must go on."

Willis said season two is six episodes, compared to season one's 13. "We stuck to a lot of the tried and true areas. Just another great year, so I am excited for people to check it out and see what they think."

For more information or to contact the group visit sasquatchuniversity.com.

Ben Blanc, Joel Porter and Ryan Willis are Sasquatch University.
Photo by Lisa Gervais.

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Confident Huskies clip Golden Hawks

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton County Huskies survived a late third period flurry to close out a 5-4 win over the Trenton Golden Hawks Saturday in Minden, extending their winning streak to eight games.

Head coach and general manager, Ryan Ramsay, said players and team staff had two days off over the Thanksgiving break after giving everything in their battle with table-topping Trenton.

"It was an exciting game – we responded really well to what they were doing, systems they were running. I think we were in control for the most part," Ramsay said. "The boys are playing with confidence; you can see that on the ice with the plays they're making. They deserve all the praise they're getting right now."

There was a big-game feel inside the arena before puck drop, with 425 local fans in attendance to cheer on their hometown team. Trenton was quickest out of the gate, dominating much of the opening period. They peppered the Huskies goal in the opening frame, forcing home netminder Corbin Votary into 13 saves.

The game sprang into action in the second, with Huskies blueliner Curtis Allen getting on the board early – scoring his second of the season at 3:56, assisted by Noah Loden and Kaiden Thatcher. David Fournier equalized at 8:32, before Nathan Poole and Chase Del Colombo re-established the Huskies lead with tallies at 10:20 and 16:04.

With the seconds ticking down, Fournier fired a hopeful puck from centre ice that found its way past Votary – "a freak, fluke goal," Ramsay said – to make it a one-goal game heading into the third. Fournier's floater went in at 19:59.

The league's most potent powerplay went to work mid-way through the final frame – first Poole helped himself to his seventh of the season at 8:12, assisted by Alex Bradshaw and Ty Petrou, with De Jesus following up at 10:10, from Petrou and Carson Littlejohn.

There was a late scare – Trenton fought



Sin bin for black and white... officials take a break in the box while arena staff work to fix a broken glass panel (inset). Photo by Justin Belanger.

back with goals at 17:14 and 19:31 to make for a nervy finish, but the Huskies hung on for a momentous win.

Ramsay said he was as proud of his team for what he saw in the closing 30 seconds as for the previous 59 minutes and change.

"With such a young team, adversity can sometimes be your best friend. To be up all those goals and then it goes down to the last second, as a coach I love that because you know everyone is dialed in, they're giving everything they've got until the final buzzer. That's the sort of thing playoff hockey is about," Ramsay said. "If you don't have any

of that adversity during the year, you have no clue how to react when it does come."

He reserved special praise for assistant coach Jordan Bailey, who has transformed the Huskies powerplay into the best in the league. Through 13 games, they've scored on 18 out of 45 opportunities on the man advantage, for a 40 per cent scoring rate.

Huskies 4-1 Aurora

A four-goal opening period blitz was enough for the Huskies to secure two points on the road Oct. 11.

A pair from Petrou, one on the powerplay, and markers from Littlejohn and Tyler Oletic stunned the Tigers into submission. Goaltender Carter Nadon had his shutout ruined by Kyle Baston 2:33 into the final frame.

The blue and white are back in action this evening (Oct. 17) for a road tilt with the Caledon Admirals. They welcome the Buffalo Jr. Sabres to Minden Oct. 19, puck drop at 4 p.m., before traveling to Stouffville to face the Spirit Oct. 20.

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Celebrating the festival of lights in Haliburton

By Lisa Gervais

The universal theme of celebrating the light is found in the traditions of many cultures as we move towards the short days of winter. This fall, Dance Happens Here Haliburton (DH3) is honouring those traditions with a Diwali festival of lights Nov. 16 at the Haliburton Legion.

"Just as the days get to their shortest, we will be brightening up the night with an evening of dance, food, music and performances," spokespersons, Myra Stephen and Harsha Manani said.

They said doors will open at 6 p.m. and people will have an opportunity to learn some traditional Indian folk dances, then try out their moves with a live band. The event is suitable for adults, youth and children.

DH3 has a tradition of hosting community dance events for all ages featuring music, dancing and food of various cultures, including Salsa Night in Haliburton and Kolomejka for Ukraine. This fall, they are very excited to feature a celebration of Indian culture.

"We are delighted to welcome Paromita Kar who, together with another dance artist and a guitarist, will teach and perform some traditional Rajasthani folk dance style and Bollywood dances," Stephen and Manani said.

Kar has a PhD in Dance Studies from York University and is a performer of the classical Indian Odissi dance, training under Odissi maestro Guru Durgacharan Ranbir of Odisha,

India, as well as a performer of folk dances of Rajasthan, from the Thar desert region of northwest India.

Music for everyone to dance will be provided by Karim Khimji with his live band of singers and musicians playing traditional instruments including tabla/dholak and dhol.

Food will be provided by Masala Kraft from Lindsay for a true taste of India. Those attending will have a chance to sample a variety of Diwali celebration treats.

Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is a major Hindu festival held each fall fostering a sense of unity, love, and gratitude. It symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance through various cultural, religious, and social practices.

It's a time for new beginnings, happiness, offerings of food and Indian sweets, dancing and bringing good luck.

DH3 committee member, Manani, and her uncle, Jag, two of the co-owners of the Lakeview Motel, are from Gujarat, a western state in India. For Gujaratis, Diwali is also the start of the new financial year for businesses, and rituals are conducted to worship Goddess Lakshmi and seek blessings for prosperity.

Manani said, "Diwali has deep religious significance in Hinduism, marking events such as Lord Rama's return to Ayodhya (Holy City) after defeating the demon king Ravana (good over evil). It is also dedicated to Goddess Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth,



Paromita Kar at the Thunder Bay Festival of India. Photo by Ronak Jani.

and involves prayers for prosperity. It is believed that on the night of Diwali, Lakshmi roams the Earth and enters homes that are clean and brightly lit."

Tickets for the event are available on Eventbrite - [Eventbrite - DiwaliHaliburton.eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/diwali-haliburton-tickets-53007000000)

or in person at Russell Red Records in Haliburton. \$25 for adults, \$15 for students 18+, free for children under 18. DH3 is a part of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative. For more information, go to dancehappenshere.com.

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NOTICES

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at Saint Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Mondays - 7:00 PM at West Guilford Baptist Church. Wednesdays - 7:00 PM at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org. All are welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every Thursday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Link Building, 5152 County Rd 21. For more information and an online version visit www.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887

EVENTS**Oct. 17**

SIRCH Community Services has kicked off its annual 'Gifts from the Heart' fundraising campaign, benefitting its community kitchen program. Last year, the organization prepared and distributed 16,800 free meals to people in need in the community. To donate, visit sirch.ca/donate, or call 705-457-1742.

Oct. 17, 3 to 7 p.m.

Fall job and volunteer fair at the Haliburton Legion. Whether you're a job seeker eager to explore career options, transition to a new field, or re-enter the workforce, come out and discover what opportunities await in the Highlands. There will be employment specialists available to assist. Pre-registration is required. The first 50 attendees will receive a special gift. For more information, contact flemingcrew@flemingcollege.ca or 705-313-1957.

Oct. 17, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Visit the Dysart branch of the Haliburton County Public Library for some afternoon fun, including Jackbox party games. Play off your phone or use one of our iPads. This program is for teens aged 13 to 18. Snacks will be provided.

Oct. 18, 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Take part in Family Storytime at the Minden and Dysart branches of the Haliburton County Public Library. Children will get to experience the magic of reading while meeting our puppets, singing songs, and much more. For children up to six. Caregiver must accompany. Drop-ins welcome.

Oct. 21, 8 a.m.

Seniors activities are starting up again at St. George's Anglican Church in Haliburton, beginning with a walking group Monday morning. No registration necessary. The church is also hosting seniors chair exercises Oct. 17 at 1 p.m. and euchre Oct. 17 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, contact glendaburk@yahoo.ca.

Oct. 25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

PA Day open house at Nature's Place in Minden. Visitors can explore exhibits that highlight our natural heritage, including a display about pollinators along the Gull River. There will also be interactive activities and creative crafts led by instructors. There will also be a screening of 1997's Casper at 1 p.m. Admission is by donation. Another PA day open house is scheduled Nov. 22.

Oct. 27, 3 to 6 p.m.

Aging Together as Community Haliburton Highlands is hosting its 'Learn the ropes: a roadmap to healthcare services' event at the Haliburton Legion. Speakers include Jen Burns West, chief nursing executive at HHHS; Christine Keenan, project coordinator with the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Ontario Health Team; Lauren Wilson, owner of Haliburton Pharmasave; Chris Parish from the Haliburton County Paramedic Service. Food provided - beef brisket or vegetable chili. Register by Oct. 21 by contacting Connie Wood at atachhevents@gmail.com or 705-457-7215.

Ongoing

Haliburton Highlands Writers and editors Network. Meet on the third Thursday of every month from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Minden branch of the Haliburton County Public Library. Gather and meet members, read stories, general news. For more information contact Kay Millard at 705-286-6635.

Join the Haliburton County Public Library for family story time, weekly from 10:30 to 11 a.m. on Tuesdays at the Minden library and Thursdays at the Dysart library. Appropriate for children up to the age of six. Must be accompanied by a caregiver.

Have a non-profit event you want advertised? Email mike@thehighlander.ca.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS**Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton weekly activities**

Mondays: Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Room. Youth darts league starting soon, for ages 10 to 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the clubroom. All are welcome.

Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m. between September and June.

Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall. Bingo is back. There's a \$1,000 jackpot on the first Wednesday of the month.

Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. & ladies auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.

Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets \$2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards.

Saturdays: 50/50 draw 4 p.m. Tickets \$1 each, available in the Clubroom.

Clubroom hours: Mon closed, Tues 3-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m. & Sat 3-6 p.m.

The Legion's mandate is to help veterans, assist with their mental and physical health and social wellbeing, provide a feeling of togetherness and combat isolation. All are welcome to attend our events.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 519 Coboconk

Second Monday of the month: General meeting - 7:30 p.m.

Tuesdays: Euchre - 1 p.m. Open Darts - 7 p.m.

First Wednesday of the month: Big Buck Bid Euchre from 11 a.m. \$15 per person.

Saturdays: Meat Roll at 3 p.m.

Oct. 19 - Loonie auction at 7 p.m. Prizes include a Blackstone griddle, money trees, scratch ticket bundles, grocery gift cards, and much more. Bid items will be posted online at coboconklegion.ca. Admission is free, with food bank donations accepted. For more information contact Legion 705-454-8127

Oct. 25 - 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. - lunch, sausage or liver and onions, cost is \$15 per person. Food bank donations would be appreciated.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Monday - Thursday: Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.

Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.

Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.

Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541

Weekly activities:

Karaoke: call for dates

Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m. Rug Hookers every second week.

Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Mon: 6 to 10 p.m. Evening darts at 7 p.m.

Wed: 2 to 6 p.m. Darts at 2 p.m.

Thurs: 2 to 10 p.m. Horseshoes at 7 p.m.

Saturday: 2 to 11 p.m. Meat draw

Please call the branch at 705-448-2221 to arrange your event.



Kitchen Party

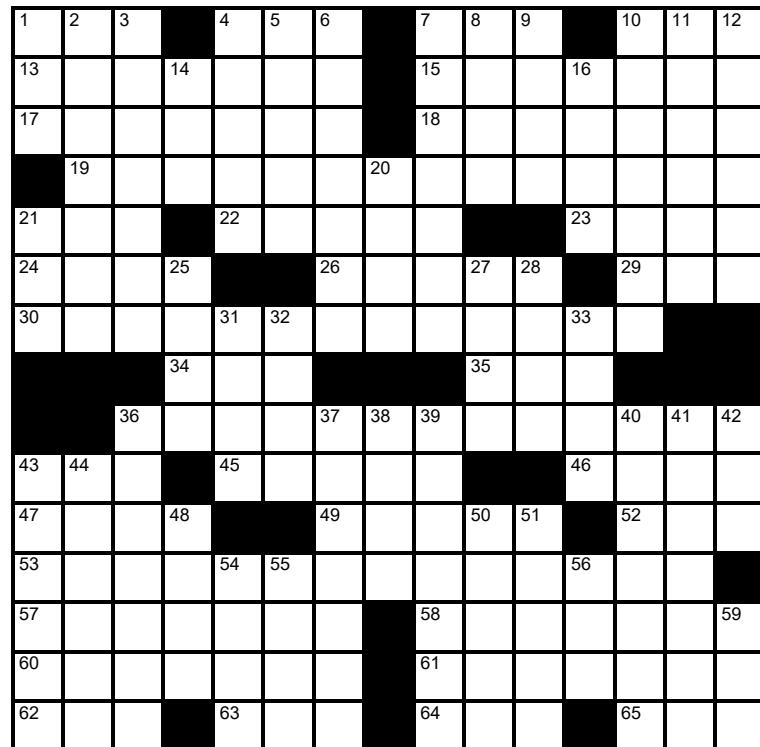
by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

Across

- 1 Top naval rank: Abbr.
- 4 After-dinner retreat, maybe
- 7 Ph.D. precursors
- 10 Torn __ (athlete's knee injury)
- 13 Alberta-to-Manitoba expanse
- 15 To be discussed, and Rosemary Barton's segment on "The National"
- 17 Swiss mountain dog
- 18 Hates, hates, hates!
- 19 Potent food for roma lovers?
- 21 "... calls 'em __ sees 'em"
- 22 Williams who played Potsie on "Happy Days"
- 23 Madrid Mmes.
- 24 You can see right through it
- 26 Part of a Robin Hood costume
- 29 Ontario classical music grp.
- 30 Potent food for spud lovers?
- 34 Talk bull?
- 35 CBC streaming channel
- 36 Potent food for shallot lovers?
- 43 Brandy label letters
- 45 Get a grip of
- 46 __ out (parade for display)
- 47 See 32-Down
- 49 Prague, in Prague
- 52 Crime lab material
- 53 Potent food for tiny herring lovers?
- 57 "You done good, son!"
- 58 Famous Venetian basilica
- 60 Uncharged particle
- 61 "The Great" Russian prince
- 62 Benylin qty., maybe
- 63 Ugly Tolkien beast
- 64 Q-U connector
- 65 Left of Lib.

Down

- 1 Police alert letters
- 2 It has drawers for drawers
- 3 Drink that may be dry
- 4 __ blank (gapped)



- 5 Iron, in Frankfurt
- 6 Absolutely must
- 7 Milanese "my lady"
- 8 "Up 'n __!"
- 9 __ spell (relax)
- 10 Arranges by type
- 11 Button-like, in a simile
- 12 To a smaller degree
- 14 Having four sharps
- 16 Backgrounds in theatre?
- 20 Fervently talk up
- 21 Title E.T. in an '80s sitcom
- 25 Long hauler's rig
- 27 Holly Cole's "Make __ Away"
- 28 "Fargo" director Ethan or Joel
- 31 White-coat wearers, briefly
- 32 Sack for 47-Across, in an idiom
- 33 Give off
- 36 Indicate a cloud, say
- 37 Pretend to know the lyrics, maybe
- 38 Pound of poetry or Levant of Rebel News
- 39 Gendered letter opener
- 40 Have dinner delivered
- 41 Like studded tires
- 42 __-Puf (fabric softener)
- 43 Like a daydreamer's look
- 44 Sudden onrushes
- 48 Midge
- 50 Sports bar wall hangings
- 51 Shoot for
- 54 Major river of Spain
- 55 It might get into a jamb
- 56 A Bobbsey twin
- 59 Wine-tasting amount

Can you eat with your dentures? ~ The answer should be yes, call us!



- Complete Dentures
- Partial Dentures
- Same Day Repairs & Relines
- House Calls

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stevekerr.denturist@gmail.com
stevekerrdentureclinic.com

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	2	1		5	3	8	9	7
8				6				
3	4				8		1	6
2		8		7	6			
7	6			4	1			

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EAGLE LAKE • \$2,135,000

- 3 bedroom + loft, 3 bathroom custom built home / cottage
- 136 feet shoreline with sandy beach and southwest views
- Screened porch, 2 stone fireplaces, master with ensuite & walkout
- Full finished basement with waterfront walkout
- Year round access, turn key ready

TROOPER LAKE • \$1,749,900

- 6 bedroom, 6 bath, 5620 sq. ft. living space
- 200 ft waterfront with sandy beach, large dock
- Floor to ceiling lake view windows, open concept main level
- Full finished lower level with games room, wet bar and more
- Must be seen! Visit website for more info

WHITE LAKE • \$1,395,000

- 3 bedroom custom built home with guest suite/studio
- 4.8 acre lot, 500 feet frontage on pristine lake
- Lakeside dock, decking areas, firepit, perennial gardens
- New air conditioner, new high end wind resistant shingles
- Wood airtight on granite stone hearth, glass wall walkout



UNspoiled 98 Acre Rock and Pine Hideaway

\$443,900

Healthy beaver pond. Crown Land on 2 sides and across road. Lots of wildlife signs. Year-round access off paved county road. Driveway in. Hydro and telephone at the road. Marked trail to follow.



IRONDALE RIVER • \$599,000

If you dream of being off-grid and on a dead-end road then check out this fascinating hideaway on the Irondale River. This turn-key Colonial Concepts white pine, dovetail log cottage was built in 2010. Exceptionally private. 250 feet of riverfront and 2.1 acres. The 1021 sq ft main cottage has 2 bdrms and an open concept kitchen and living room with a lovely screen room and a 4-piece bath. The cottage comes completely furnished.

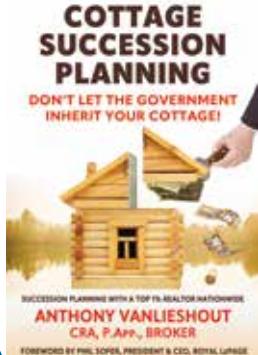


CRYSTAL LAKE • \$3,999,999

Stunning executive waterfront home or cottage. No expense was spared on this fabulous custom 4 bdrm, 4 baths, 4987+ sq ft home with an attached 2 car garage built in 2006 and extensively renovated in 2021. Soaring 28 ft cathedral ceiling in the great room with a 3 story fireplace. One of the best big lake views anywhere. Full sunsets. 143 ft of fabulous shoreline and 1.03 acres. Offered turn-key & completely furnished - even the boat is included.

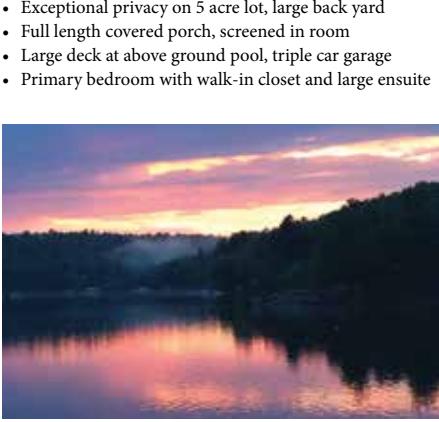
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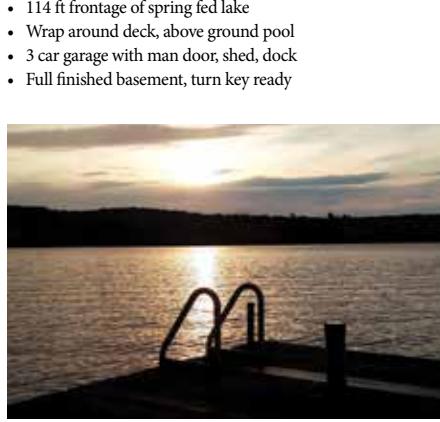
FIRE ROUTE 369 • \$824,900

- 3 bedroom, 3 bath, 1700 sq ft home, must be seen!
- Exceptional privacy on 5 acre lot, large back yard
- Full length covered porch, screened in room
- Large deck at above ground pool, triple car garage
- Primary bedroom with walk-in closet and large ensuite



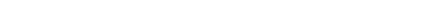
GULL RIVER • \$799,900

- 3 bedroom, 2 bath riverfront home on cul-de-sac
- Numerous renovations and upgrades
- Level landscaped lot, close to public boat launch
- Full finished basement with walkout
- Large detached double garage, turn key ready



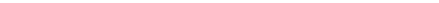
MCCUE CREEK • \$797,700

- 3,000 sq. ft. Viceroy style 4 bedroom home
- 114 ft frontage of spring fed lake
- Wrap around deck, above ground pool
- 3 car garage with man door, shed, dock
- Full finished basement, turn key ready



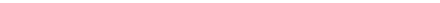
GULL LAKE • \$719,900

- 2 bedroom open concept cottage with 1 bedroom bunkie
- 202 feet frontage on clean "weed free" deep water
- Sunset views, year round access, ample parking
- Grandfathered building location close to waters edge
- Close to Minden and all amenities, comes turn key ready



ESSON LAKE • \$649,900

- Classic 3 bedroom 3 season cottage at waters edge
- Western sunset views, undeveloped lands across lake
- Clean hard sand shoreline, gradual entry, deep water off dock
- Gazebo, dry boathouse, large deck, level lot
- What cottaging is meant to be



TWELVE MILE LAKE • \$474,990

- 2 bedroom original cottage on 3 lake chain
- Level lot, clean sand rippled child safe beach
- Fabulous sunsets, big lake views, excellent fishing
- Year round access on cul-de-sac, nice docking set up
- Easy access to the gta, comes turn key ready to enjoy

Cathy Bain and the team were excellent from start to finish with the sale of our family Cottage. We appreciated her attention to detail and helpful insights.

Thank you very much to Cathy and the team.

Mark McCann



**Anthony
van Lieshout**

Broker of Record, CRA



**Chris
James**

Broker



**Marcia
Bell**

Sales Representative



**Chris
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**Cathy
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